DC #21

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING IN OCTOBER

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BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM GRAPHIC NOVEL

The inmates are running the asylum. Literally.

Led by The Joker, the inmates have taken over Arkham Asylum. Now the Clown Prince of crime, along with Clayface, Two-Face, the Mad Hatter, Killer Croc, and others are holding the asylum's staff hostage against a single demand.

They want Batman turned over to them.

BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM is a hard-hitting psychological horror story investigating not only the insane world inside the minds of some of Batman's deadliest foes, but of the Darknight Detective's relationship with their madness.

BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM is a 120-page comic-book sized graphic novel written by Grant Morrison. The book features fully painted artwork by Dave McKean. Ten pages of this hardcover book are devoted to Morrison's impressionistic writing of the mad villains in their own voice, each with their own moody painting by McKean. BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM is labeled "Suggested for mature readers."

Arkham Asylum, where insanity reigns supreme . . . and where it falls to Batman to provide the sole voice of reason in a decidedly unreasonable world.

GREEN LANTERN: THE EMERALD DAWN RISES

Hal Jordan . . . as a young boy, he watched his father make aviation history before tragedy struck.

As an adult, he dealt with that tragedy. Then came the fateful day when a flight simulator test and a flash of green light led him to a crashed alien spaceship, a ring . . . and a beginning that would lead to intergalactic fame.

GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN is the saga of Hal Jordan, from his childhood, through his test pilot days. The tale traces his discovery of a great power and his learning to use that power that will some day make him the greatest of all the Green Lanterns.

GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN is a six-issue mini-series written by James Owsley and featuring art by Mark Bright and Romeo Tanghal. An all-new ongoing monthly book will follow this mini-series.

A new dawn is breaking for Hal Jordan and the Emerald Gladiator in GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN.

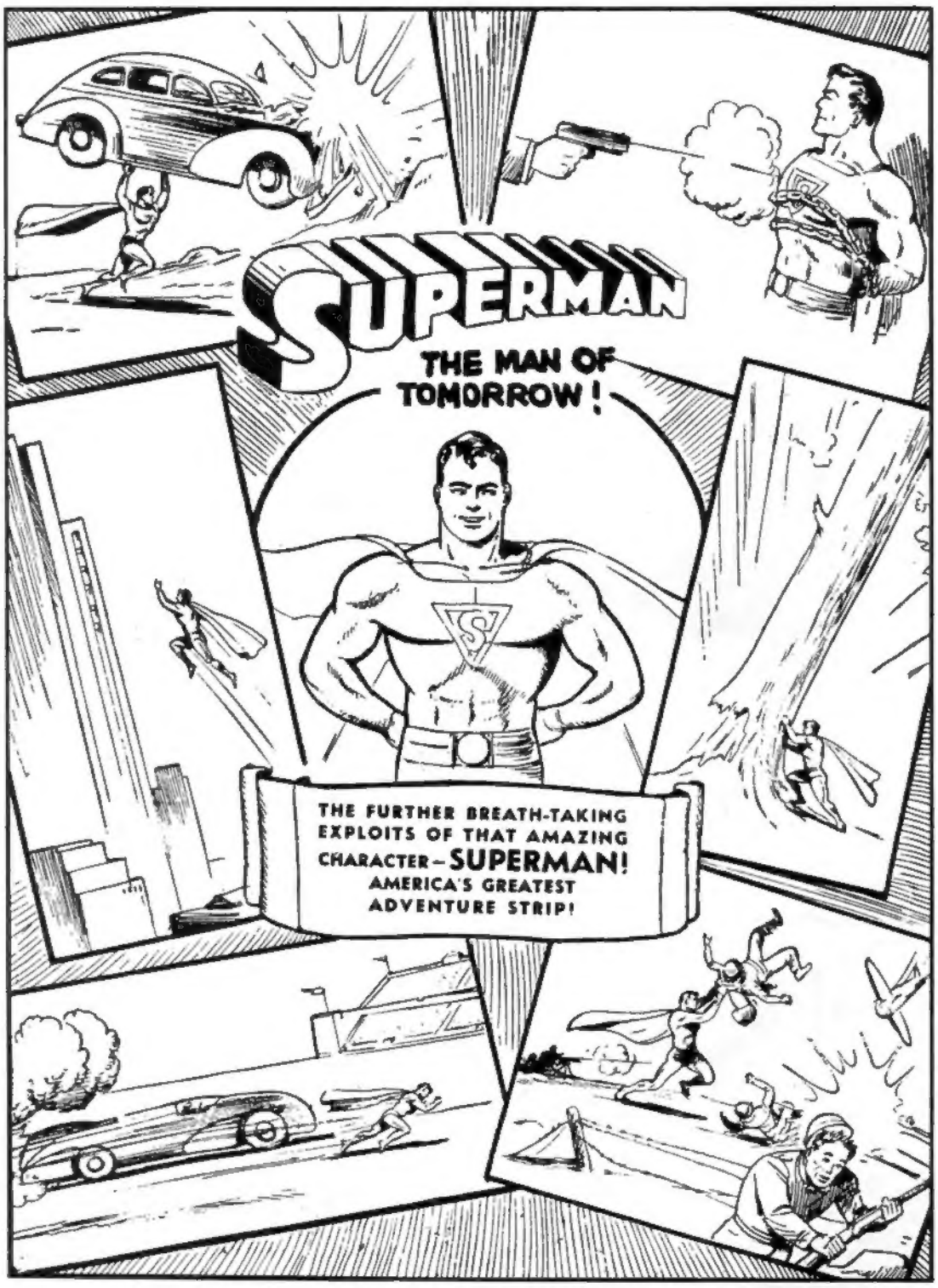
THE *SUPERMAN ARCHIVES* . . . HISTORY RETOLD

It's been fifty years since these four comic books were first published . . . and now SUPERMAN #1–4 are back, re-presented for the first time in a single volume.

The **SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #1** reprints these 1939/1940 comic book classics by SUPERMAN creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in their entirety in one beautifully designed 272-page hardcover collection, including the original covers and advertisements. To insure the authenticity of this classic volume, DC Comics has used the original issues of these four comics as coloring guides. SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #1 also features an introduction by *History of the Comics* author Jim Steranko.

According to the most recent *Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide*, SUPERMAN #1–4 are valued at over $30,000, making them little more than a dream for most fans and collectors.

Now SUPERMAN ARCHIVES #1 makes that dream come true.


SUPERMAN
THE MAN OF TOMORROW!
THE FURTHER BREATH-TAKING EXPLOITS OF THAT AMAZING CHARACTER – SUPERMAN! AMERICA'S GREATEST ADVENTURE STRIP!

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

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SUPERMAN, THE POSTER . . . BATMAN, THE FIGURINE

SUPERMAN. BATMAN. Two of the greatest super-heroes the world has ever known.

Now you can own their likenesses in two deluxe items as special as the heroes they represent.

First up is the **SUPERMAN POSTER**, a fully painted poster featuring The Man of Steel at his most heroic. The approximately 25″ × 35″ poster, painted by Steve Rude, will do any SUPERMAN fan proud and is the perfect companion piece to the SUPERMAN ARCHIVES volume also available this month from DC Comics.

Also from DC is the **BATMAN PEWTER FIGURE**, a beautifully rendered and polished 4″ tall pewter figure of the Darknight Detective. This durable collectible—sure to become a collector's item—comes complete with its own attractive individual display box.

The SUPERMAN POSTER and THE BATMAN PEWTER FIGURE . . . they're the next best thing to having the heroes themselves in your home.

DISCOVER THE *LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT*

The tale begins on a treacherous mountain climb to track a killer.

It ends with the birth of the **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT.**

On his quest to apprehend the killer, Bruce Wayne meets a tribal shaman who has a lasting impact on his life, influencing him, upon his return to Gotham City, to take up the cowl of Batman. Then, strange, ritualistic murders start occurring, and a mysterious bat-like person is seen.

"The Shaman of Gotham" is a five-part story that examines the early days of Batman . . . and leads off the first new regular BATMAN title in years, LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT. LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT will present a continuing series of "mini-series-within-a-series," allowing some of the top creators in comics the opportunity to tell their own unique tales of Batman.

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT is an ongoing monthly series in the Deluxe Format. "The Shaman of Gotham" is written by Dennis O'Neil and features art by Ed Hannigan and John Beatty.

The legend lives on . . . in LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT.

BOOKS SHIPPING IN OCTOBER

☐ **ACTION COMICS #647**
Part 2 of the 3-part "Brainiac Trilogy": With his physical form degenerating, Brainiac goes all out to build a new one. Written by Roger Stern, with art by George Pérez and Brett Breeding. Cover by Pérez. $.75

ACTION COMICS #647

☐ **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #12**
There's more going on beneath Waterdeep than anyone knows . . . except for Xanathar the Beholder and Khelben the Master Mage, whose web of treachery blows wide open and flays the minds of those around them. Written by Jeff Grubb, with pencils and cover by Jan Duursema, inks by Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #461**
Amidst a growing number of strange natural disasters, Superman learns more about the mysterious Kryptonian Fortress in the frozen wastelands of the Arctic. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens. Cover by Jurgens and Brett Breeding. $.75

☐ **ANIMAN MAN #18**
More secrets of Animal Man's powers are finally revealed . . . with a little help from the mysterious Dr. Highwater. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **BATMAN #442**
Part 5 of the 5-part "A Lonely Place of Dying": Continued from THE NEW TITANS #61, as Batman, Nightwing, and a mysterious youth meet Two-Face in a final, deadly confrontation. This storyline introduces a major new character into the Batman mythos. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Jim Aparo and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by George Pérez. $1.00

☐ **BATMAN Pewter Figure**
It's the most unusual collectible of the year . . . a 4" tall polished pewter figure of Batman in action, complete with its own attractive display box. $24.95

☐ **BATMAN: ARKHAM ASYLUM Hardcover Edition**
The inmates are running the asylum, and their only demand is non-negotiable . . . give them The Batman or their hostages will die. Featuring The Joker, Clayface, Two-Face, The Mad Hatter, Killer Croc, and more. This 120-page hardcover volume is written by Grant Morrison, with full painted art and cover by Dave McKean. $24.95

☐ **BLACKHAWK #9**
The "Circus" saga comes to its dramatic conclusion as Blackhawk goes on the lam from the deviant Grundfest . . . who manages to track him down for a final and deadly confrontation. Written by Martin Pasko, with art and cover by Rick Burchett. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **CAPTAIN ATOM #35**
It's a time for secrets revealed as Captain Atom finally learns the truth about the Silver Shield . . . and the *hidden* truth about Dr. Megala. Written by Cary Bates, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. $1.00

☐ **CHECKMATE #23**
Part 3 of the 5-part "Knight Wars": Who is killing the greatest scientific minds of Europe and America? Only Peacemaker stands a chance of finding out as Checkmate deals with internal problems concerning the freelance assassin known as Bishop. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Steve Erwin and Al Vey. Cover by Erwin. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **CHRISTMAS WITH THE SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL #2**
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a *super* New Year with the super-heroes, featuring a collection of all-new holiday tales, including Superman by Paul Chadwick; Batman written by Dave Gibbons and drawn by Gray Morrow; Wonder Woman by Eric Shanower; Enemy Ace by John Byrne and Andy Kubert; Flash and Green Lantern by William Messner-Loebs and Ty Templeton; and Deadman by Alan Brennert and Dick Giordano. Cover by Stephen DeStefano and Larry Mahlstedt. $2.95

☐ **DETECTIVE COMICS #609**
Batman finally learns the identity of Anarky . . . but that knowledge doesn't enable him to stop Anarky's campaign to destroy Gotham City. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. $1.00

☐ **DOC SAVAGE #15**
A major oil spill has hit the open seas as Doc and his amazing crew come face to face with the aquatic challenge of the Sea Baron and a mutant life-form. Written by Mike W. Barr and art by Gabriel Morrissette and Steve Montano. Cover by Andy Kubert. *(Deluxe Format)* $2.00

☐ **DR. FATE #12**
It takes *two* Doctor Fates to gain the upper hand over Darkseid . . . but the cost may be greater than the worth of the victory. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE DOOM PATROL #29**
The Brotherhood of Dada have done more than just paint the Doom Patrol into a corner . . . they've trapped them *inside* a painting from which there is no escape. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Richard Case and John Nyberg. Cover by Simon Bisley. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **DRAGONLANCE™ #14**
Part 2 of the 4-part "Myrella's Test of High Sorcery": Myrella's determination to win her White Robe pits her against the demonic doings of the Black-Robed wizard of the Lost Tower of High Sorcery. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by guest artists Jim Janes and Dave Simons. Cover by Ron Randall and Randy Elliott. *(New Format)* $1.50

DRAGONLANCE™ #14

☐ **EL DIABLO #5**
Part 2 of the 4-part "The Storm": The government, police, and the community of Dos Rios are at odds and helpless to stop the serial child murders . . . can El Diablo do anything more? Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **FIRESTORM #92**
Part 3 of the 4-part "Elemental War": Entombed in rock on the ocean

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floor, Firestorm at last receives the Elemental Truth. Meanwhile, Naiad and Red Tornado wreak their vengeance on Tokyo. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Tom Mandrake. $1.00

☐ **FLASH #33**
Wally and Mason meet a Keystone City couple who believe that a major super-villain is out to kill their newborn baby . . . and if that's not enough, Flash's mysterious nemesis plots further mayhem for the Scarlet Speedster. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Larry Mahlstedt. $1.00

FLASH #33

☐ **FORGOTTEN REALMS™ #5**
Part 1 of the 4-part "Dragon Reach": Here there be dragons . . . and here . . . and here. The good folk of the Dales are terrorized by an inordinate number of dragons prowling the skyways and byways of their lands. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by R.A. Morales and Dave Simons. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **GAMMARAUDERS™ #10**
It's showdown time on the Big Nada as Jok becomes the target for every disgruntled member of the Slugnoids and the Cryptic Alliances. This final issue of the saga of the Gammarauders is written by Peter Gillis, with art and cover by Gordon Purcell. *(New Format)* $2.00

☐ **GREEN ARROW #26**
Green Arrow travels deeper into the real Sherwood Forest and locates the mysterious woman he's been seeking to uncover the truth of her grandfather's death. Written by Mike Grell, with art by J.J. Birch and Michael Bair. Cover by Birch and Bair. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.25

☐ **GREEN LANTERN: EMERALD DAWN #1**
(of a 6-issue mini-series)
Beginning an examination of the life of Hal Jordan, the man destined to become the greatest Green Lantern in the history of the Corps. From his childhood watching his test pilot father make aviation history, to his own appointment with destiny as an adult, learn the complete story of the Emerald Gladiator, told in its entirety for the first time. Written by James Owsley, with art and cover by Mark Bright. $1.00

☐ **HAWK & DOVE #7**
The thrilling conclusion to the mysterious Barter's involvement in Hawk & Dove's world as they all face the ancient menace of Count St. Germain and his legion of gargoyles. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. $1.00

☐ **HELLBLAZER #25**
There's a dead homeless man wandering the streets of London . . . a case right up Constantine's alley, right? Except Constantine's got problems of his own to deal with. Guest writer Neil Gaiman, with art by Dean Motter. Painted cover by Dean Motter. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE HUNTRESS #9**
The Huntress puts her life on the line when she goes up against a gang of drug dealers who have taken over a neighborhood. And Helena is the target of a serial killer who has access to the Huntress's secrets. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art by Joe Staton and Bob Smith. Cover by Staton and Smith. *(Suggested for Mature Readers)* $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #33**
Guy Gardner visits Kilowog at the Citadel and makes him an offer he can't refuse. And, hey, just what exactly is the JLI going to do with the island of Kooey, Kooey, Kooey from the Annual? Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Adam Hughes and Joe Rubinstein. Cover by Hughes. $1.00

☐ **JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE #8**
Part 4 of the 4-part JLA/JLE Crossover: Continued from JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #32. The vampiric hordes march on Stagg's plant, leading Simon to come up with a *very* final way of stopping them. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos and Art Nichols. Cover by Sears. $1.00

☐ **L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 #11**
The computer tyrant makes his move. Lobo makes a decision. And Garryn Bek makes a dangerous discovery. Written by Keith Giffen and Alan Grant, with art by Barry Kitson and Mark McKenna. Cover by Kevin Maguire and Al Gordon. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #1**
Part 1 of the 5-part "Shaman of Gotham": On a treacherous mountain climb to track down a killer, Bruce Wayne (before becoming The Batman) meets a tribal shaman who influences his life forever and leads him to take up the leather cowl. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art and cover by Ed Hannigan and John Beatty. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.50

☐ **THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #2**
Back in the good old days he was Ultra Boy, one of the most powerful of the Legionnaires and also one of the most loyal. He's changed. Written by Keith Giffen, Tom Bierbaum, and Mary Bierbaum, with art and cover by Giffen and Al Gordon. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **MANHUNTER #20**
Mark Shaw's torment continues to tear him apart as Manhunter's struggle with Dumas reaches explosive new heights. Written by Kim Yale and John Ostrander, with art by Grant Miehm and John Statema. Cover by Miehm and Giordano. $1.00

☐ **MISTER MIRACLE #11**
Guess what's inside that little box that's been moving around Scott's fixit shop? It's an old foe of Mr. Miracle's, the head of a worldwide racket our hero thought he'd stopped. Written by Len Wein, with art and cover by Joe Phillips and Bruce Patterson. $1.00

☐ **THE NEW GODS #10**
Part 4 of the 6-part "Civil Warrior": It's all-out war between New Genesis and Apokolips. Which side will Orion, son of Darkseid, be on? Written by Mark Evanier and Paris Cullins, with art by Cullins and Will Blyberg. Cover by Cullins and Scott Hanna. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE NEW GODS #10

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☐ **THE NEW TITANS #61**
Part 4 of the 5-part "A Lonely Place of Dying." Batman and Nightwing . . . together again for the first time. Plus, more on the mystery of Wildebeest. Written by George Pérez and Marv Wolfman, with art by Pérez, Tom Grummett and Bob McLeod. Cover by Pérez. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE PHANTOM #9**
The Phantom confronts slavery in modern-day Africa as he attempts to free a group of prisoners enslaved to work a plantation. Written by Mark Verheiden, with art and cover by Luke McDonnell. *(New Format)* $1.50

THE PHANTOM #9

☐ **THE QUESTION #32**
Vic Sage finds it impossible to be the Question and must come to terms with what it means *not* to have an identity to hide behind. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Denys Cowan and Malcolm Jones III. Cover by Cowan. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **SANDMAN #12**
The dreamworld isn't big enough for the both of them, leading to the final showdown between the two Sandmen. Written by Neil Gaiman, with art by Mike Dringenberg and Malcolm Jones III. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **SECRET ORIGINS #46**
It's a special all-headquarters issue, showcasing the origins of three super-heroic secret sanctums: Justice League headquarters is covered by Grant Morrison, Curt Swan, and George Freeman; Titans Tower comes from Marv Wolfman and Vince Giarrano; and the story of the Legion Clubhouse is told by Gerard Jones and Kurt Schaffenberger. Cover by Eliot Brown. $1.75

☐ **THE SHADOW STRIKES #3**
The evil Monk's plan begins to unravel as the Shadow moves closer to the heart of the mystery . . . a mystery that began over 20 years before with the murder of the Russian czar and his family. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Eduardo Barreto. *(Deluxe Format)* $1.75

☐ **THE SHADOW STRIKES! ANNUAL #1**
In Hollywood to help a friend, Lamont Cranston and Margo are thrust into a frenzy of movie stars, mystery, and murder that only the Shadow can unravel. Written by Gerard Jones, with art by Dan Spiegle. Plus, "The Secret Life of Margo Lane" is revealed when a famous and ruthless gossip columnist sets out to discover Margo's *shadowy* secrets. Written by Jones. Art by Luke McDonnell. Cover by Michael Kaluta. *(Deluxe Format)* $3.50

☐ **THE SPECTRE #31**
Final issue. Betty Bumphus isn't faring very well as an exorcist. She has lost her battle with her personal demon, and The Spectre (and Jim Corrigan) is possessed by another demon who now has all his powers. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Gonzalo Mayo. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK® #3**
As relations on Chronian III deteriorate, Kirk finds himself resorting to a peace plan that draws criticism from the Federation . . . and hostile fire from the Klingons. Written by Peter David, with art by James W. Fry and Arne Starr. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STAR TREK:® THE NEXT GENERATION #3**
Picard sends an Away Team to investigate a derelict spaceship . . . that shifts to high warp speed wth the team inside. Written by Jan Friedman, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Jerome Moore. *(New Format)* $1.50

☐ **STARMAN #17**
A chance interlude between Starman and Power Girl is interrupted when Dr. Polaris, master of magnetism, strikes. Written by Roger Stern, with art by Tom Lyle and Scott Hanna. Cover by Lyle. $1.00

☐ **SUICIDE SQUAD #35**
Bronze Tiger and Deadshot lead a rescue team to Apokolips to save Amanda and the rest of the Squad . . . but who's going to save *them*? Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Luke McDonnell and Geof Isherwood. Cover by McDonnell and Karl Kesel. $1.00

☐ **SUPERMAN #38**
When Jimmy Olsen vanishes from Metropolis, the Man of Steel has to wonder if it's got anything to do with his own return. Written and pencilled by Jerry Ordway, with inks by Dennis Janke. Cover by Ordway. $.75

☐ **SUPERMAN ARCHIVES Hardcover #1**
For the first time ever, the original Superman #1–4 are reprinted in their entirety in a single deluxe hardcover volume, complete with their original covers, ads, and text pages. $39.95

☐ **SUPERMAN POSTER**
What's approximately 25″ × 35″, painted by Steve Rude, and features the Man of Steel in dynamic action? It's the deluxe Superman poster, available for the first time this month. $6.00

☐ **SWAMP THING #91**
Swamp Thing and Abby learn to adjust to life after their reunion . . . and the birth of their child. Written by Doug Wheeler, with art by Pat Broderick and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover by John Totleben. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.50

☐ **THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER #12**
(of a 12-issue maxi-series)
The saga of the Unknown Soldier comes to its dramatic conclusion as, broken by the deaths of everyone he ever loved, the Soldier unwittingly stumbles toward the General's final revenge. Written by James Owsley, with art and cover by Phil Gascoine. *(Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.)* $1.75

☐ **WILD DOG SPECIAL #1**
The mob has declared an all-out war on Wild Dog while the government hounds him into clandestine service. Worse still, his secret identity is exposed in this 48-page special. Written by Max Allan Collins, with art and cover by Terry Beatty. $2.50

WILD DOG SPECIAL #1

☐ **WONDER WOMAN #37**
The first visitors set foot on Paradise Island . . . but there's trouble in paradise when all is not as it seems. Written by George Pérez and Mindy Newell, with art by Chris Marrinan and Steve Montano. Cover by Marrinan and Pérez. $1.00

people at WORK

ED HANNIGAN

How many Ed Hannigans can you find?

This is the year of THE BATMAN and to mark the event, DC is debuting the first all-new BATMAN title in years, LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT. It's an event that every Bat-fan's been looking forward to. And counted among that number of fans is the book's artist, Ed Hannigan.

"I was born on Newport Naval Base in Rhode Island on August 6, 1951," Ed told us. "My father was in the Navy, which was why I was born on a naval base. We moved around a lot, so comic books were the one thread of continuity through my life. You could always get comics, no matter where you lived.

"I first became involved in comics through my grandmother, who used to bring me big boxes of comic books. I was probably around four, because I remember I learned to read when I was between four and five, mainly through reading comics and the Sunday funnies.

"The first super-hero comic I ever saw was an issue of WORLD'S FINEST. I was familiar with SUPERMAN, from the TV show, but I'd never heard of BATMAN before then. I was a big fan of SUPERBOY and of the Mort Weisinger stuff in general. Then, like everybody else in the business, I graduated to the Julie Schwartz edited comics, like FLASH, GREEN LANTERN, ATOM."

More than just introducing Ed to the fantastic world of super-heroes, these comics planted in his mind the seed for his future career. "I was always drawing when I was a kid. I used to draw the FLASH. Remember Carmine Infantino's "How I Draw the Flash" pages? I did that over and over, billions of times. Of course, as a kid, it never occurred to me there were people actually drawing these things. But when Julie began listing the names of the artists, I thought, 'Gee, this is something *I* could do someday.' Of course, everybody thought I was nuts.

"I discovered Marvel Comics pretty early, in the early '60s, and I became a real Marvel maniac. A big Spider-Man fan. A big fan of Steve Ditko, Jack Kirby, the whole bit."

Ed's father's naval career kept the Hannigan family on the move through his adolescent years. "We lived in Pittsburgh, then Ipswitch, Massachusetts, and Boston, but I mainly grew up in Ashland, Massachusetts, going to high school there. These days it's a suburb of Boston, but when I lived there it was a little rural, nothing town.

"Right after I graduated from high school, my father was transferred to New York City, so we moved to New Jersey. For a while I was a hippie and got into underground comics . . ." and that involvement led Ed into mainstream comics.

"When I got to Jersey it occurred to me that I was near the place where the comics were made. At long last. When I lived in Massachusetts it never occurred to me that I could just go down to New York and become a comic book artist. At the time, I was going to college, taking engineering courses, which were very boring. But at this point my family had been discouraging me from getting into comics, 'Oh, no, no, no, become an engineer,' like my father. But I really hated the classes, so I got in touch with Dave Hunt, who at the time was inking backgrounds for Dick Ayers, as well as publishing a little, I guess not quite underground, but alternative press magazine.

"I had a bunch of underground comics I had done in a kind of pseudo-Robert Crumb style. Nothing great. But I got in touch with him to see if he'd publish them and he came over to my house to see my artwork. He liked it a lot, but by that time his magazine was folding, so so much for that. But he told me he worked at Marvel so I finagled an invite out of him.

"I more or less showed up one day at Marvel and said, 'Dave Hunt said I could come here.' He was there and took me around the place. It was the thrill of my life, and I remember the first pencilled artwork I ever saw was some Barry Smith Conan pages, from the first Red Sonja story. It was the first time I ever saw pencilled pages and I was real enthusiastic about that.

"When I got home my parents thought I had gone into New York and gotten a job in comics, which, of course, wasn't true." Ed at first tried his hand at lettering, but when that fell through he turned his attention to other aspects of comics, eventually working his way in through the production end of the business before moving up the comic book ladder at Marvel.

"I did pretty much every job up there," Ed recalls. "For a while I was production manager on their British reprint books. I was an assistant editor. I did cover sketches.

"Then, somehow, I fell into writing, doing The Defenders, Power Man/Iron Fist, and Black Panther. I also drew several issues of The Defenders at the same time I was writing the book. Eventually, though, I grew tired of drawing, at least temporarily, although I was doing cover sketches the whole time, so I never totally stopped drawing.

"Then I began doing breakdowns on one of the Spider-Man books and, eventually, Dick Giordano started asking me to work for DC. Marvel wanted me to do the Cloak and Dagger series, which I had created with Bill Mantlo, and I had the whole first issue laid out, but by then I felt just totally burnt out at Marvel.

"So I came over to DC, doing cover sketches, the occasional story, including a TEEN TITANS ANNUAL, a couple of issues of ATARI FORCE. I was the cover editor, which was a lot of fun, but a real burn-out after doing it for a year. After that, I decided I wanted to draw again. That was around the time Mike Grell was doing GREEN ARROW: THE LONGBOW HUNTERS. I was looking for a regular title to do and Mike suggested me for GREEN ARROW.

"After almost two years, though, I started getting kind of tired of GREEN ARROW, having done everything I wanted with the book. I was looking to do something else when Andy Helfer approached me to do the new BATMAN book, LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT."

Ed is unequivocal concerning his feelings about his newest assignment. "What can I say? I love Batman. I love what David Mazzucchelli did on BATMAN: YEAR ONE. I like what Frank Miller did in DARK KNIGHT. I've always loved Batman, indiscriminately. I liked the TV show. I've always liked the character, even when he was goofy. My favorite incarnation, other than Mazzucchelli's, which I think is my favorite comic book, is probably Neal Adams's Batman.

"It's nice to be able to do the early BATMAN, without the circle on the chest. We're kind of doing a continuation of YEAR ONE, covering his first case. In the first issue we get to see BATMAN'S first night on the job. You see him put on the costume for the first time. And in the second issue, which continues several months after the first issue, we move on to events after those shown in YEAR ONE. I've also been able to do a lot of neat Bruce Wayne stuff, so it's a lot of fun."

BATMAN®

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of BATMAN #79 (1953), an early appearance of Vicki Vale.

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NO. 79
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DC
BAT MAN
Featuring "The BRIDE of BATMAN!"
THE BAT-SIGNAL! I'M WANTED AT HEADQUARTERS! WE'LL--ER--HAVE TO SELECT THAT RING LATER, VICKI!
HMPH! I'M GETTING A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE MARRIED TO BATMAN!